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C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 000121

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/SCE, EUR/CE, EUR/RPM, L/T

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/2019
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NATO](#) [HR](#)
SUBJECT: CROATIA WOULD VIEW COMPLETING THE ACCESSION
PROCESS BY THE END OF NATO SUMMIT AS A FAILURE

REF: LJUBLJANA 00057

Classified By: PolOfficer Peter D'Amico, for reasons 1.4(b) & (d).

(C) We appreciate the problems Slovenia faces in completing the ratification of Croatia's accession to NATO prior to the NATO Summit (reftel). However, a scenario as suggested in para 5 of reftel, with completion of the ratification process only at the end of the summit, would definitely not/not be seen a "victory" here. The Croatian Government has set its hopes on participating in this Summit as full member of the Alliance, and if it is not, the government and Croatian public would see the Alliance as failing to deliver on the commitment made at the Bucharest Summit. It will be politically difficult for President Mesic and Prime Minister Sanader to arrive in Strasbourg still not knowing whether Slovenia has taken the final step to approve Croatian membership. In order to do what it can to speed up the process, the GoC is currently taking action to make sure that it is ready to deposit its instrument of ratification as soon as the Secretary General issues the invitation for Croatia to accede to NATO, as we will be reporting (septel).
BRADTKE